

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, and 13-18. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Priority

The Examiner acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority, but noted that a certified copy of the priority application has not been submitted.

The Applicant submits herewith a copy of the 1st page of the certified copy of the priority application, PCT application PCT/EP03/14799, filed on December 23, 2003. A complete certified copy will be mailed to the USPTO via regular mail.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claims are directed to a computer program loadable into a policy decision device. Claims 13-18 have been amended to address this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-18, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cline, et al (US 5,313,616). Applicant disagrees.

Cline discloses verifying the conformance of an application program to a set of system rules characterized by the development of a conformance database, the performance of a static analysis of the application program to determine whether the application program is in static conformance with the conformance database and the performance of a dynamic analysis of the application program to determine whether the

application program is in dynamic conformance with the conformance database. The static analysis produces a graph of the basic blocks of the application program and analyzes the graph for conformance to system rules, dead code and coverage metrics. The dynamic analysis adds a small amount of monitoring code into an executable application program which monitors the application program as it is exercised in a test harness.; The monitoring code produces a log database which can be analyzed for run-time non-conformities of the application program. (Cline, Abstract)

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Cline fails to teach "said objects comprising entities that are controllable by one or more policies, said entities comprising person related data, computer devices, or applications".

The present invention discloses, in one embodiment, that an object is an entity that is controllable by one or more policies and policies specify inter alia the rules for controlling one or more objects, e.g. specify the "who, what, when, why, where, and how" of access to objects by entities like persons or computing devices or applications. Examples for objects are person-related data of employees or other humans, data related to fabrication resources, data related to computing devices or applications operating on computing devices, network components, file systems, databases, documents etc. (Applicant's Application as filed, page 1, lines 20-27)

In contrast Cline defines "object" as being a program that has been assembled into machine code but has not been linked and otherwise processed to the stage where it is directly executable by the computer system's CPU. Clearly, the "object" of Cline is not the same as the "object" as recited by Applicant's claims.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are patentable over, and not anticipated by, Cline. Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are patentable at least by virtue of depending from their respective base claim.

5.) Prior Art Not Relied Upon

On page 16 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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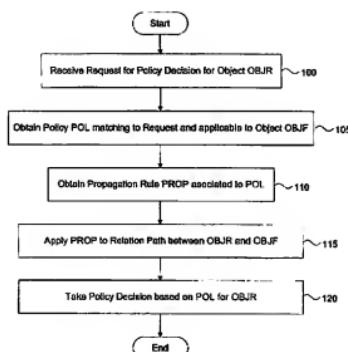
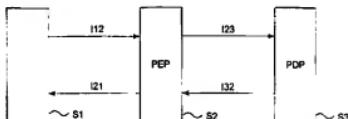
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(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR TAKING AN ACCESS CONTROL POLICY DECISION



(57) Abstract: A method and a device for taking a policy decision are disclosed. The policy decision device (S3) has access to objects being relatable to each other by relations of one or more relation types. The method comprises the steps of receiving (100) a request for the policy decision, the request specifying a first object of the objects and request information, obtaining (105) a policy matching to the request information and being applicable to a second object of the objects, obtaining (110) at least one propagation rule associated to the policy, the at least one propagation rule specifying at least one relation type of the one or more relation types, verifying if a relation path exists, the relation path linking the first object and the second object and consisting of one or more or the relations, verifying if the one or more relations of the relation path are in accordance with at least one of the at least one specified relation type, and if said relation path exists and if said one or more relations of the relation path are in accordance, applying the policy to the first object for taking (120) the policy decision.

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